

5. INNOVATIVE METHODS IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN HIGHER AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SAFE AND ACTIVE SCHOOLDAY

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The main goal of Safe and Active Schoolday is the promotion of sustainable healthy life and well-being of children and youth in the school context. This is striven y the fostering and encouraging active life style, participation and involvement as well as by strengthening the community involvement and participation. In order to reach these goals, we are going to:

1) **Create operational models and concrete tools to:**

Increase active participation and involvement: e.g. break time activities, pupils as planners, activators and organizers of activities and environments, activating environmental tools, learning outdoors activities etc.

Strengthening the feeling of togetherness: how and what we can do together, school yard projects with paintings, simple tools etc., older pupils taking responsibilities of activating younger ones, cooperation between school and families etc.

Creative innovative cooperation in schools, between schools, on the city level (cross administrational cooperation) and cross the border: well-being teams in schools, networks between schools, working groups on a city level, cross border working groups & promoting group.

Create the foundation for a new kind of partnership model for promotion of well-being of children and youth; actors, roles, responsibilities.

2) **Gather, process and analyse data about:**

- The life style of children and youth,
- Conceptions of well-being, participation and involvement in schools etc.
- Different actors, their roles and responsibilities in creating a new model of WellBeing Partnership of children and yout

3) **What results we are expecting?**

Organisational, operational and cross border structures for sustainable and successful development activity in schools, between schools, on the city level and cross borderly.

Activating methods and tools to increase participation and involvement on a school level: a) equipment, activation materials, training, campaigns, b) a new way of organizing a school afternoon activities which promote participation in cooperation

with others actors working with children and adolescent, c) the idea of an “extended schoolday”.

Activating environments: a) school yards planning and development, b) co-operational model and methodological “tool box” for participatory and involving planning.

New innovative operative and financial models for preventive promotion of health and well-being of children and adolescent – WellBeing Partnership model: actors, roles, responsibilities.

To make the project as efficient as possible we have divided it into five work packages: 1) Project management and coordination is needed to create a functional and practical operational and strategic structure of the project, 2) meetings, seminars and trainings are essential to produce ideas and innovations of concrete actions on a school level and to enable the exchange of ideas and experiences, 3) equipment and materials for school activities are campaign are needed to enable the activating, participatory and involving practices on a school level, 4) we have to inform all focal interest groups and actors about the project and its goals and to raise awareness about those issues, 5) evaluation and modeling is important to produce reliable and valid information and evaluation of the project.

INNOVATIVE METHODS OF TEACHING VOCABULARY

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As English teachers we always look for new and interesting ways to stimulate our students to learn English.

Vocabulary is a very important means to express our thoughts and feelings, either in spoken or written form. Vocabulary is considered an essential part of learning English since it leads to communication.

Traditional approach to learning English includes looking words up in the dictionary, writing definitions, and using new words in sentences. Word lists, teacher explanation, discussion, memorization, vocabulary books, and quizzes are often used in an effort to help students learn new words. But these methods are not very effective.

Teachers should teach vocabulary in context, combine vocabulary with reading and writing activities, and provide students with different lexical information about the words they learn. Giving learners something new does wonders in relieving boredom and spiking interest in a topic.

There are some techniques that teachers can use in their classrooms to improve their students' vocabulary:

1. Showing models and objects.

It is a very useful technique to teach vocabulary to the beginners. The names of many things can be taught by showing actual objects. It gives real experience and sense to the learners.